

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for repairing soft tissue, comprising:

an elongate housing having a first end~~[[.]]~~ and a second end, said first end configured to receive a soft tissue anchor;

a handle disposed proximate said second end of said housing;

a tubular shaft disposed within said housing, said shaft rotatable within and movable along a longitudinal axis of said housing and having an inner bore extending lengthwise through at least a portion of said shaft;

a driving member coupled with said shaft for rotation therewith and configured to engage the soft tissue anchor, whereby rotation of said shaft imparts rotation to the soft tissue anchor via said driving member;

an inner member disposed within said shaft and movable along said inner bore, said inner member having an inner channel sized to receive an elongate tensile member or a shuttle member;

a first actuating member coupled to said shaft and configured to translate said shaft along said longitudinal axis of said housing when manipulated by a user; and

a second actuating member coupled to said inner member and configured to move said inner member along said inner bore between an extended position wherein said inner member extends beyond said first end of said housing and a retracted position wherein said inner member is substantially within said housing.

69. (Original) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein said first and second actuating members are disposed proximate said second end of said housing, said apparatus further comprising a passage for receiving an elongate tensile member therethrough, said passage extending through said inner member, said handle, and said first and second actuating members.

70. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 68, ~~further comprising an~~ wherein ~~said~~ elongate tensile member is disposed within said inner member, ~~whereby~~ and manipulation of said second actuating member extends said elongate tensile member and said inner member beyond said first end of said housing.

71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, further comprising a needle coupled proximate a distal end of said elongate tensile member, said inner member engageable with said needle to extend said elongate tensile member and said needle past said first end of said housing when said second actuating member is manipulated.

72. (Original) The apparatus of claim 68, further comprising a soft tissue anchor operatively coupled with said driving member.

73-110. (Cancelled)

111. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for repairing soft tissue, comprising:

a tubular housing having a first end and a second end, said first end configured to receive a soft tissue anchor;

a handle disposed proximate said second end of said housing;

a shaft disposed and rotatable within said housing, said shaft ~~rotatable~~
~~within and~~ movable along a longitudinal axis of said housing and configured to extend
beyond said first end;

a driving member coupled with said shaft for rotation therewith and
configured to engage the soft tissue anchor, whereby rotation of said shaft imparts
rotation to the soft tissue anchor via said driving member; and

a first actuating member coupled to said shaft and configured to move
said shaft along said longitudinal axis of said housing and rotate said shaft about said
longitudinal axis.

112. (New) An apparatus for repairing soft tissue, comprising:

an elongate housing having a first end and a second end, said first end
configured to receive a soft tissue anchor;

a tubular shaft disposed within said housing, said shaft rotatable within
and movable along a longitudinal axis of said housing and having an inner bore
extending lengthwise through at least a portion of said shaft, whereby rotation of said
shaft imparts rotation to the soft tissue anchor; and

an inner member disposed within said shaft and movable along said inner
bore, said inner member having an inner channel sized to receive an elongate tensile
member or a shuttle member.

113. (New) The apparatus of claim 112, further comprising:

a driving member coupled with said shaft for rotation therewith and
configured to engage the soft tissue anchor.

114. (New) The apparatus of claim 113, further comprising:

a first actuating member coupled to said shaft and configured to translate said shaft along said longitudinal axis of said housing when manipulated by a user; and

a second actuating member coupled to said inner member and configured to move said inner member between an extended position wherein said inner member extends beyond said first end of said housing and a retracted position wherein said inner member is further within said housing.

115. (New) The apparatus of claim 114, wherein said elongate tensile member is disposed within said inner member, the apparatus further comprising:

a needle coupled proximate a distal end of said elongate tensile member, said inner member engageable with said needle to extend said elongate tensile member and said needle past said first end of said housing when said second actuating member is manipulated.

116. (New) An apparatus for repairing soft tissue, comprising:

an elongate housing having a first end and a second end, said first end configured to receive a soft tissue anchor;

a tubular shaft disposed within said housing, said shaft rotatable within and movable along a longitudinal axis of said housing and having an inner bore extending lengthwise through at least a portion of said shaft, whereby rotation of said shaft imparts rotation to the soft tissue anchor;

an inner member disposed within said shaft and movable along said inner bore;

a first actuating member coupled to said shaft and configured to move said shaft along said longitudinal axis of said housing and rotate said shaft about said longitudinal axis, said first actuating member being rotatable relative to said housing; and

a second actuating member coupled to said inner member and configured to move said inner member along said inner bore and rotate said inner member within said inner bore, said second actuating member being rotatable relative to said housing.

117. (New) The apparatus of claim 116, further comprising:

a driving member coupled with said shaft for rotation therewith and configured to engage the soft tissue anchor.

118. (New) The apparatus of claim 116, wherein said inner member includes an inner channel sized to receive an elongate tensile member or a shuttle member.

119. (New) The apparatus of claim 118, wherein said elongate tensile member is disposed within said inner member, and manipulation of said second actuating member extends said elongate tensile member and said inner member beyond said first end of said housing.

120. (New) The apparatus of claim 119, further comprising a needle coupled proximate a distal end of said elongate tensile member, said inner member engageable with said needle to extend said elongate tensile member and said needle past said first end of said housing when said second actuating member is manipulated.

121. (New) An apparatus for repairing soft tissue, comprising:

a tubular housing having a first end and a second end, said first end configured to receive a soft tissue anchor;

a shaft disposed within said housing, said shaft movable along a longitudinal axis of said housing;

a driving member coupled to said shaft for rotation therewith, said driving member having a projecting distal portion configured to engage the soft tissue anchor and a proximal portion received over at least a portion of said shaft, whereby rotation of said shaft imparts rotation to the soft tissue anchor via said driving member; and

a first actuating member coupled to said shaft and configured to move said shaft along said longitudinal axis of said housing.

122. (New) The apparatus of claim 121, further comprising a soft tissue anchor operatively coupled with said driving member.

123. (New) The apparatus of claim 122, wherein said soft tissue anchor includes a distal end, a proximal end, and a recess defined in said proximal end, and wherein said projecting portion of said driving member is configured to be received within said recess.

124. (New) The apparatus of claim 121, wherein said housing is flexible.